

B1 discrete propellant charges accommodated within said cylindrical spacer portion for propelling respective projectile assemblies sequentially through the muzzle of the barrel;

ignition means for igniting said discrete propellant charges; and

electrical control means for selectively and sequentially actuating the

ignition means.

4. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the interior of the cylindrical spacer portion is structurally reinforced to prevent excessive radial expansion of the projectile assembly.

5. (Amended) A barrel assembly for a weapon, said barrel assembly including:

B2 a barrel having a muzzle;

a plurality of projectile assemblies axially disposed in end to end abutting relationship within said barrel, each projectile assembly including a projectile head and a trailing cylindrical extension in close proximity with the barrel;

an internal wedging surface, at or adjacent the trailing end of said cylindrical extension which accommodates a tapered nose part of the following projectile assembly, for expanding said trailing end into enhanced sealing engagement with the barrel upon engagement of said wedging surface with said tapered nose part;

discrete propellant charges for propelling respective projectile assemblies sequentially through the muzzle of said barrel;

ignition means disposed externally of the barrel for igniting said discrete propellant charges; and

B²
electrical control means for selectively and sequentially actuating said

ignition means.

7. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in either Claim 5 or Claim 6 wherein (propellant charges) surround the noses of respective following projectile assemblies externally of the trailing cylindrical extension.

P³
8. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 5 wherein each projectile assembly includes an internal spacer which extends through the trailing cylindrical extension from the projectile head to abut or cooperate with the inserted projectile head of a following projectile assembly, whereby axial compressive loads applied to a stack of abutting projectile assemblies arranged in sealing engagement within the barrel may be resisted.

9. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 5 wherein axial compressive loads applied to a stack of (abutting projectile assemblies) arranged in sealing engagement within the barrel may be distributed back to said barrel from individual projectile assemblies through their engagement with the barrel.

P⁴
14. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 8 wherein, upon loading respective (projectile assemblies) into the barrel and thereafter causing an axial displacement of the projectile assemblies causes radial expansion of said trailing ends thereof to enhance the sealing engagement between the projectile assemblies and the barrel.

15. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the axial displacement is suitably caused to said projectile assemblies individually, subsequent to each projectile assembly being loaded into the barrel.

24 16. (Amended) The barrel assembly as claimed in either Claim 14 or Claim 15 wherein the radial expansion into enhanced sealing engagement with the barrel is limited through engagement between the penetrating nose of a following projectile assembly and the internal spacer.

Add Claim 17 as follows:

17. (New) The barrel assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said cylindrical spacer portion is in operative sealing engagement with the bore of said barrel.
